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THE QUESTIONS OF HIGHER CRITICISM AND THE SOURCES WHENCE THE ANSWERS MAY BE SOUGHT.

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IN the investigations into which the writer has been led the following analysis has been gradually developed, and is presumably capable of improvement. In taking up the investigation of any book such portions of this analysis are selected as are required. The subjects in Higher Criticism are regarded as those occasioned by the nature of the contents and concerning the origin of the writings :

A. Literary Criticism :

1. Peculiarities of style, or of language.
2. Unity, the originality or revision of the writings.
3. Index of the subjects mentioned or treated.
4. Synopsis of the course of thought, or of the contents.

B. Historical Criticism, *i. e.*, the relation of the writing to history :

5. The authenticity or trustworthiness of the writing.
6. The genuineness or the authorship of the writing.
7. For whom written or spoken.
8. When written or spoken.
9. Where written or spoken.
10. On account of what cause written or spoken.
11. For what purpose written or spoken.
12. Fulfilment of the prophetic or predictive element.

Classification of the kinds of evidence which help toward the attainment of the required answers :

I. External Evidence :

- i. Evidence from tradition.
- ii. Evidence from history external to the Bible, and this is
 - (1) Direct statement,
 - (2) Indirect allusion or quotation, and
 - (3) Implication.

- (a) Positive.
 - (b) Negative, *argumentum e silentio*.
- iii. Evidence from the parts of the Bible external to the writing under consideration. This head is subdivided precisely like the preceding head.
- II. Internal Evidence :
 - iv. The contents of the writing under consideration. This also has subdivisions precisely like ii. above.
 - v. Style, and here the subdivisions are from
 - (1) The lexicon or vocabulary,
 - (2) The grammar or the structure of words or of sentences, and
 - (3) Style proper.
 - vi. The place of the writing in the development of religious knowledge and institutions. This concerns
 - (1) The historic life of the people,
 - (2) Their religious institutions, and
 - (3) Their religious knowledge and thought.
 - vii. Psychological interpretation, the psychological probabilities as to the writing being produced at the time supposed, by the person supposed, under the circumstances supposed, or as to the correctness of the record and the like.
 - viii. Evidence from the ethical character of the record.

Of course a scheme like this may become merely mechanical in its use. Such is not its design, rather it is for the sake of making a full and thorough survey of the field, and of gaining a more precise estimate of the value of the evidence gained.